

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CARNE C.
CUNNINGHAM, UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Carne C. Cunningham, a World War II veteran. He received his ensign commission in September 1943.

His military service began with his assignment to LST-291, a landing ship for tanks, where he served as the officer in charge of supplies in addition to his watch officer duties. On September 10, 1944, Carne was assigned as a division officer to a cargo personnel ship, the Auriga, where he served for the remainder of the war. He was involved in the invasion of Leyte, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon Island, the Philippine Islands, and Okinawa, where he witnessed the death and destruction of war.

World War II is known as the deadliest conflict in human history, taking the lives of over 70 million people. During this difficult time, our country stood united behind our brave servicemen and women who so willingly took to the battlefields to defend freedom and democracy. It is veterans like Carne that helped us emerge victorious from World War II and restore hope and humanity in a world that was shattered by the darkness of hatred and violence.

His patriotism, courage, and selflessness are an example of what make America great. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service to this great Nation. May God bless all those he loved, and may I convey to them my sincerest condolences and the gratitude of the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE UNVEILING OF
A MONUMENT HONORING HAITIAN SOLDIERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the erection of a monument in Savannah, Georgia honoring the more than 500 Haitian soldiers who fought there during the Revolutionary War, and to introduce the accompanying New York CARIB News article, "Haitians in U.S. Revolution Get Monument," published on Oct. 16, 2007. This monument serves as a bronze testament to the oft-forgotten contributions Haitians made in that war.

Around 150 people attended the unveiling of the monument, which depicts four soldiers from that 545-man unit. Theirs was the largest unit in that Savannah battle and believed to be the largest grouping of black soldiers in the war. Soon after returning home, those Haitian

veterans channeled that same spirit of rebellion to gain independence from the French in 1804.

In tribute to that integral thread in our American history, and in memory of their sacrifices to the cause of liberty, I submit news of this important symbol into the RECORD.

HAITIANS IN U.S. REVOLUTION GET MONUMENT

SAVANNAH, GA.—After 228 years as largely unsung contributors to American independence, Haitian soldiers who fought in the Revolution War's bloody siege of Savannah had a monument dedicated in their honor last Monday.

About 150 people, many of them Haitian-Americans who came to Savannah for the event, gathered in Franklin Square where life-size bronze statues of four soldiers now stand atop a granite pillar 6 feet tall and 16 feet in diameter.

This is a testimony to tell people we Haitians didn't come from the boat, said Daniel Fils-Aime, chairman of the Miami-based Haitian American Historical Society. We were here in 1779 to help America win independence. That recognition is overdue.

In October 1779, a force of more than 500 Haitian free Blacks joined American colonists and French troops in an unsuccessful push to drive the British from Savannah in coastal Georgia.

More than 300 allied soldiers were gunned down charging British fortifications Oct. 9, making the siege the second-most lopsided British victory of the war after Bunker Hill.

Though not well known in the U.S., Haiti's role in the American Revolution is a point of national pride for Haitians.

After returning home from the war, Haitian veterans soon led their own rebellion that won Haiti's independence from France in 1804.

Fils-Aime's group has spent the past seven years lobbying Savannah leaders to support the monument, which the city approved in 2005, and raising more than \$400,000 in private donations to pay for it. Fils-Aime said the historical society still needs \$250,000 more to finish two additional soldier statues.

As it stands now, the monument features life-size bronze statues of four soldiers and standing atop a granite pillar 6 feet tall and 16 feet in diameter.

The fourth statue, a drummer boy, depicts a young Henri Christophe, who served in Savannah as an adolescent and went to become Haiti's first president—and ultimately king—after it won independence.

Records show that 545 Haitian soldiers sailed to Savannah in 1779, making them the largest military unit of the Savannah battle. The Haitians are also believed to have been the largest black unit to serve in the American Revolution.

This is a testimony to tell people we Haitians didn't come from the boat, said Daniel Fils-Aime, chairman of the Miami-based Haitian American Historical Society, one of the many Haitian Americans who came to Savannah for the dedication.

We were here in 1779 to help American win independence. That recognition is overdue.

VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND
HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PRE-
VENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorist Prevention Act of 2007, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative HARMAN. This important legislation recognizes the threat of homegrown terrorism and seeks to address this burgeoning problem while maintaining the civil rights and liberties of American citizens.

Since May of this year, two separate plots against strategic American targets have been foiled and prevented by American officials; what distinguishes them from previous terrorist plots against the United States is that the potential terrorists here had no support from Al-Qaeda or any other overseas terrorist cells. America must be unique in its approach to homegrown terrorism, given the civil rights and civil liberties protections that are unique to America and enjoyed by all American citizens.

As a senior Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure, I believe we can secure our homeland and remain true to our values simultaneously. In our fights against global terrorism, it is critical that Muslim Americans continue to be our allies. The Muslim American Community has grown in size and prominence, and is an integral part of the fabric of this Nation. Muslim Americans share the same values and ideals that make this Nation great. Ideals such as discipline, generosity, peace and moderation.

Many years of civil rights jurisprudence and law have been ignored and thrown out the window when the racial profiling, harassment, and discrimination of Muslim and Arab Americans is permitted to occur with impunity. These practices show a reckless and utter disregard for the fundamental values on which our country is founded: namely, due process, the presumption of innocence, nondiscrimination, individualized rather than group suspicion, and equitable application of the law. We cannot allow xenophobia, prejudice, and bigotry to prevail, and eviscerate the Constitution we are bound to protect.

The securing of our homeland and protection of our national security is on the forefront of my agenda. However, using 9/11 as an impetus to engage in racial profiling, harassment, and discrimination of Muslim and Arab Americans is not only deplorable, it undermines our civil liberties and impedes our success in the global war on terror. We must fight our war on terror without compromising our freedoms and liberties.

It is precisely for these reasons that I so strongly support H.R. 1955. This Act calls for

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